

## 2006 EPA/ECO COMMUNITY INTERN PROGRAM

**Region 1 - Pioneer Valley Project (PVP)** works with Vietnamese nail salons and local health care providers in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Nail salon technicians work in low-wage jobs with long hours, and often bring their young children to the salon. The technicians work in poorly ventilated areas and may be exposed to harmful chemicals in nail salon products. The intern will assist in PVP's Vietnamese Healthy Nail Salon Project by conducting outreach to the community, health care providers, and to nail salon owners and workers about the risk of exposure to the chemicals in nail salon products as well as safe and healthy nail work practices. The intern will gain experience with working with a diverse, disadvantaged community experiencing environmental health issues, and will learn valuable techniques in communications and outreach.

**Region 2 - Mothers on the Move** is a local organization that works in the Hunts Point and Longwood neighborhoods of the South Bronx. For fourteen years, the organization has worked to address the root causes of asthma and poor air quality through public accountability and green community development. The intern will work with local members and conduct research on air and water pollution in the South Bronx and the negative health effects associated with such pollution, asthma and respiratory disease. The intern will share their findings at meetings of local organizations.

**Region 2 – West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT)** is a non-profit environmental justice organization that works to improve environmental health and quality of life in West Harlem. WE ACT is nationally known for its work on building cleaner and healthier communities, government accountability, and community-based health research partnerships. The community faces adverse environmental impacts, such as exposure to diesel fumes, as a result of its proximity to six of the seven bus depots in West Harlem. The intern will review and analyze existing transportation and land use plans currently being developed by the city and other organizations; educate community residents on the issues associated with the transportation planning process; and assist with outreach efforts to engage community residents in the process.

**Region 3 - Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood** is a non-profit organization located in Southwest Baltimore. It is a community-based coalition of neighborhoods, businesses and agencies committed to human and economic development. Its vision is to build a "community of choice to live, work and play." The intern will enhance the organization's ability to focus on recycling use by residents and to boost the community's recycling efforts through education and practice. The intern will research incentive-based recycling strategies which could draw in business and commercial partners for increase participation in recycling.

**Region 4 - African American Cultural Alliance** is a grassroots non-profit organization based in the heart of North Nashville, one of Nashville's oldest predominantly Black neighborhoods. Since 1983 it has been engaged in a continuous effort to promote positive community development initiatives. The project includes two primary missions: (1) a community-based highway corridor impact assessment, and (2) a sustainable campus-community recycling and environmental education outreach effort. The intern will benefit by having direct, hands-on experience in these two projects which will result in tangible improvements in the cultural, economic, and physical environment of the North Nashville community. The report produced by the intern will be presented to the organization.

**Region 7 - Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN)** has been working with nine communities in the St. Louis, Missouri, area for over two years by involving community members in neighborhood cleanups and providing education on environmental issues. Recently, the nine communities have worked together with 10 additional communities to start a collaborative solid waste and recycling program. The program addresses the goal set by St. Louis County to reduce solid waste by 50%. If the residents of the communities do not see the importance and logic behind recycling the cost of disposing their garbage will increase as their trash is transported to other landfills. The intern will assist NAN in actively engaging residents to begin recycling by conducting research on other communities with successful recycling programs; develop best practices guide on how grassroots organizations can empower residents to recycle; attend community meetings; and conducting workshops to educate residents on the benefits of recycling.

**Region 9 - Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network** was formed in 1995, as an outgrowth of community concerns over the cleanup and reuse efforts of the former Fort Ord Army Base. The organization has advocated for the participation of disenfranchised communities in the activities and decisions made regarding the cleanup and reuse plans, and the economic development of abandoned lands at the former Fort Ord facility and in surrounding communities. The intern will conduct research on how other communities have dealt with hazardous waste and educate the local residents, and create a participatory-based community involvement plan to educate the community on the issues.

**Region 10 - International District Housing Alliance** is a local non-profit organization focused on providing culturally appropriate outreach, education, and advocacy on environmental justice and health issues. It is the lead agency in a coalition to identify and prioritize toxic risks from multiple sources in the community and to build long-term community capacity to strategically address the issues. The intern will assist with analyzing, collating, and presenting existing data on environmental toxins in the community. The intern will be responsible for identifying trends in existing public health data, toxin monitoring data, and sharing findings with community stakeholders through a variety of forums and presentations.

**Region 10 – School and Community Reuse Action Project School and Community Reuse Action Project (SCRAP)** is a small, grassroots, community-based non-profit organization which promotes creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community. Its innovative approach earned SCRAP recognition from the Association of Oregon Recyclers as the '2003 Recycling Educator of the Year' and reached over 7,800 people in 2005. The intern will work with the SCRAP organization to help increase the community's environmental awareness through hands-on participation in environmental outreach at a variety of local events. The intern will teach local residents about recycling and local environmental stewardship.